

LARGE DIAMETER FLUSH-JOINT PIPE HANDLING SYSTEM

Abstract

An elevator for assembling a plurality of a large diameter pipe joints into a pipe string with a drilling rig is disclosed. The first one of a number of large diameter pipe joints is adapted to threadingly engage another large diameter pipe joint. The elevator is detachably securable to the upper end of the first joint, and is adapted to both lift and position the first joint while it is stabbed and tightened onto the string. The elevator is further adapted to co-operatively engage the rotary table of the drilling rig to rotatably tighten the second joint to the first joint as the second joint is added to the string.